



July 3, 2001

The Honorable Dion Aroner  
Assembly Human Services Committee  
2163 State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Aroner:

**SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL (SB) 390 (ESCUTIA)  
(AS AMENDED JUNE 4, 2001)  
LOCATION: ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HEARING DATE: JULY 10, 2001**

The California Children and Families Commission supports SB 390 (Escutia), which would create a State Master Plan for Child Care and Development Services.

With the fragmentation of children's child care and after-school care systems, California needs an in-depth planning document that serves as the basis for the federally required state plan. SB 390 not only provides for the creation of a comprehensive plan, but also encourages collaboration among the various agencies and organizations that serve California children.

As you may know, the California Children and Families Commission is currently embarking on the school readiness component of a master plan document as requested by the Legislature's Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education (K-12). Leading the master plan workgroup focusing on school readiness for children prenatally to 8, and looking at readiness issues such as children's readiness for schools, school's readiness for children, and parent and community supports, the Commission is bringing together educators, leaders, and parents from around the state to participate in the creation of a long-term planning document.

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We applaud SB 390 and the proposed plan to take a serious look at child care subsidy eligibility requirements, increased child care access, retention of culturally-sensitive teachers and caregivers, and strategies targeted to underserved children and communities.

SB 390 also represents an opportunity to involve County Children and Families Commissions in the long-range planning process for child care and development services. Determining the process of creating a Master Plan for Child Care and Development Services is crucial, and the inclusion of the county perspective will help to ensure that the needs of Californians across the state are met.

We respectfully request your "aye" vote on SB 390 and look forward to working with you as we endeavor to improve child outcomes.

If you have any questions regarding the Commission's position on SB 390, please contact me or Patti Huston, Chief of Legislative and Governmental Affairs, at (916) 323-0056.

Sincerely,



Jane I. Henderson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Martha Escutia  
State Capitol, Room 5080

Sherry Novick, Consultant to the Chair  
Assembly Human Services Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2163

Sophia Kwong, Consultant to the Vice Chair  
Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg  
State Capitol, Room 5155

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